

HISTORY  
OF  
RUTLAND COUNTY  
VERMONT

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES  
OF SOME OF ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS

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ney River on the road that has since fallen into disuse. He was a blacksmith in Rhode Island. He died on March 31, 1810, in his seventy-fifth year. Mrs. Harris Whipple now living in town is his granddaughter. He has other descendants in Detroit and other portions of the West. David Erwin, otherwise "colonel," and otherwise "general," came from New Jersey as early as 1786. He was a man of decided ability, and acted as foreman in the slitting-mill here for some years. Ethan Whipple from North Providence, R. I., grandfather of Harris Whipple and C. C. Whipple, still living here, came this year. He had taken an active part in the Revolution. He was a carpenter by trade, and built the house where John Allard now resides. He was one of the selectmen from 1782 to 1796, and in 1802, 1803 and 1805. He was town treasurer from 1793 to 1813, and town clerk from 1809 to 1813, thus taking a leading part in town government. Among the arrivals of 1787, were Dr. Stephen Hall, of Connecticut, on the west street, the first physician owning land in town, and Timothy Brainard, of East Hartford, Conn., on the farm lying next south of Oliver Cleveland's, between the Poultney west line and Poultney River.

In the spring of 1788 Major Tilly Gilbert came from Brookfield, Mass., in company with Gideon Tafft, who resided here a while and then removed to Whitehall. Major Gilbert, then quite a young man, put up for a time at the tavern of Silas Safford, on the site of Henry Green's residence, and was employed by Colonel Lyon to teach school, probably in the school-house on the common. From about 1781 to 1799 he was a resident of Benson and Orwell, but returned to Fairhaven in the latter year and opened a store, dispensing drugs and medicines as well as more common merchandise. His house was on the site of the present Knight block. He owned a half interest in the lower saw-mill, with his brother, Eliel, until November, 1802, when he bought out his brother. In 1806 he purchased the saw-mill on the upper falls, and retained the former until 1813, the latter until 1822. He built the house which his son, Benjamin F. Gilbert, still occupies, in 1814. He removed to Westhaven in about 1832, where he died September 5, 1850, at the age of seventy-nine years.

Isaiah Inman came from Massachusetts in the fall of 1788 with his family and lived for a time with his brother-in-law, Charles Hawkins, sr. Inman Pond, near which he located, derived its name from him. Thomas, or "Doctor" Dibble, came from Nobletown, N. Y., about this time, and settled near the Castleton line.

In 1789 Dr. James Witherell, an eminent physician, came from Mansfield, Mass., *via* Hampton; his residence while here was on land now owned by Hamilton Wescott. He succeeded to the practice of Dr. Stephen Hall, and was for more than twenty years an influential citizen here, being several times a representative in the State Assembly, judge of the County Court and once a Member of Congress. He removed to Detroit, Mich., about 1810, where he